SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5304**

				8			1	
	7			3				
	5	1				3	4	
		2		4			7	
9		8	7					6
3	1	7			9	2		
	2					7		
				5	3	4		1
		6	9				5	

TRICKY **B5304**

							6	4
8	6					3		7
	5	9					8	
2	1	7			8			
				6				9
						7		
					7		4	
3	4		8		5			
9					4			2

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

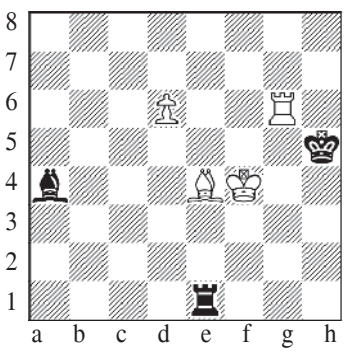
ACROSS

1 Woodworker (9)
7 Spoken or verbal (4)
8 Light brown colour (5)
10 Liquid produced by infection (3)
11 Aquatic reptile (6)
13 Logic (9)
14 Invisible (6)
16 Total (3)
18 Serving platters (5)
19 Anthony _ former PM (4)
20 Drags pine (anag.) (9)

DOWN

1 Compares (9)
2 Quarrelled (6)
3 Conspiracy (4)
4 Novel (3)
5 More drunk (7)
6 Handing in one's notice (9)
8 Fits in (7)
9 Syntax (7)
12 Not level (6)
15 Kernel (4)
17 Pigment (3)

CHESS



WHITE HAS A CRUSHER

HINT: THE KING IS PREY.

Solution:

1. Re6! (threatens 2. Bf3ch Kh4 3. Rh6 mate) etc. [Girinath-Wojtaszek, '14].

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 13;

Very good 20;

Excellent 26 (or more).

Solution monday.

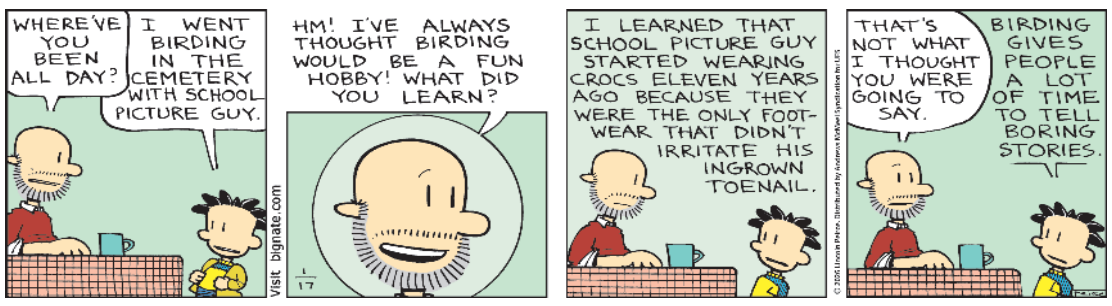
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

DIGITALLY

agility, alit, daily, dial, digit, digital, DIGITALLY, dill, dilly, gaily, gait, gila, gild, gill, gilt, glia, glial, idly, idyll, laid, laity, lilt, lily, tail, tidal, tidally, tidily, tidy, till

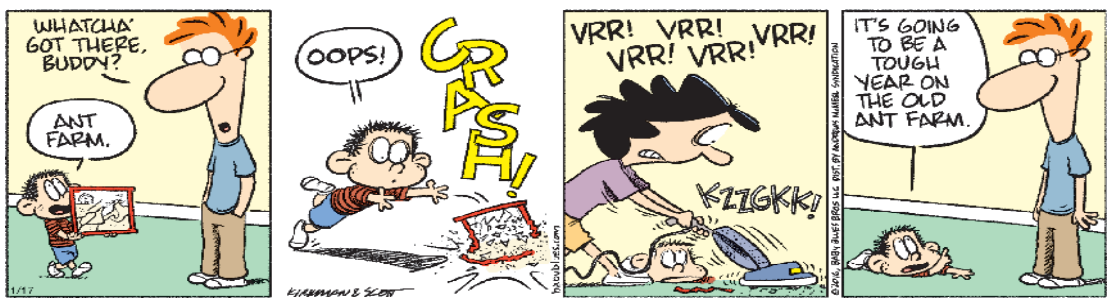
THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?
I WENT BIRDING IN THE CEMETERY WITH SCHOOL PICTURE GUY.
HM! I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT BIRDING WOULD BE A FUN HOBBY! WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
I LEARNED THAT SCHOOL PICTURE GUY STARTED WEARING CROCS ELEVEN YEARS AGO BECAUSE THEY WERE THE ONLY FOOTWEAR THAT DIDN'T IRRITATE HIS INGROWN TOENAIL.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY.
BIRDING GIVES PEOPLE A LOT OF TIME TO TELL BORING STORIES.
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

BABY BLUES



WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	06:00pm	05:26pm	06:06pm	05:25pm	05:31pm	06:01pm
Sunrise	07:13am	07:08am	07:17am	07:00am	07:16am	07:24am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow			Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	6	19	Mostly Sunny	83	7	20	Partly Cloudy	7	20	Partly Cloudy
Hyderabad	12	26	Sunny	59	10	26	Sunny	11	27	Sunny
Islamabad	8	20	Partly Cloudy	55	9	20	Partly Cloudy	8	20	Partly Cloudy
Lahore	6	18	Partly Cloudy	83	7	19	Partly Cloudy	7	19	Partly Cloudy
Multan	7	20	Partly Cloudy	83	8	20	Mostly Sunny	8	21	Partly Cloudy
Peshawar	6	20	Partly Cloudy	73	8	21	Partly Cloudy	7	20	Partly Cloudy
Quetta	-1	13	Mostly Sunny	54	-1	11	Partly Cloudy	1	12	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD

SQUABBLING

(SQUABBLING: SKWA-bling: Quarreling over petty matters.)

Average mark 30 words
Time limit 55 minutes

Can you find 48 or more words in SQUABBLING?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD – ANALOGUE

ague	loan	glean
alga	loge	glen
algae	lone	glue
aloe	long	goal
alone	lounge	gone
along	luge	guano
analog	lune	ulna
angel	lung	elan
angle	lunge	
noel	ogle	
lagan	gala	
lane	gale	
lean	genoa	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

1 Platforms
7 Picnic
9 Colonel
10 Unit
12 Hen
13 Stunned
14 Ilk
15 Side
17 Uniform
19 Reveal
20 Spellings.

DOWN

1 Peculiar
2 Lion
3 Ail
4 Financial
5 Oceans
6 Mixed
8 Condemns
11 Tunnel
13 Sleep
16 Drug
18 Own.

METRO EVENTS

MUSHAIRA

T2F is organising a mushaira on its premises in DHA at 7pm. Entry is free.

SEMINAR

'2025 Recapped: The State of Global Politics', a seminar, is organised at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs, at 4:30pm.

DISCUSSION

A discussion on 'Manto aur Aaj ki Duniya' at Haseena Moin Hall, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 6pm.

TRIBUTE

An event to pay tribute to director, producer & TV host Ali Raza is held at Auditorium II, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 7pm.

CONCERT

A live concert is organised at Port Grand at 8pm.

STORYTELLING

A storytelling session is being organised at Storytime Withallz, DHA Phase 4, at 12:30pm.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** Today is full of surprises that might impact your pocketbook. You might get a new job offer or suddenly impress a boss with your forthright confidence. You'll have no trouble speaking up for yourself today, and this ability will serve you well. Tonight: People notice you.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** A sudden opportunity to travel might drop in your lap today. Certainly, you want a change of scenery. However, this is also an excellent day to study or promote a project, or finish a writing assignment, book or paper. Your mind is vigorous today! Tonight: Study and learn.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

**** This is an excellent day for financial discussions, especially about anything related to inheritances, shared property, taxes, bills or debt. You'll be clear about what you want, and things will probably go your way. Romance will be passionate! Tonight: Check your finances.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** Romantic partners, spouses and close friends will feel the passion of this day with some flirtations or outright romantic overtures. (Oh yes, it's that kinda day.) Romance will sizzle! Don't leave home without a rose clenched between your teeth. Tonight: Lively discussions!

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

**** Today you feel independent and strong. This is a good thing, because surprising interruptions might impact your job, your health or something to do with a pet. You won't hesitate to speak up; in fact, you'll be crystal clear about what you want (this includes a work-related romance). Tonight: Work.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

***** The stage is set for a romantic drama today, which is why the entire weekend is overflowing with hearts and flowers. Because you feel confident and eager, you might approach someone for a date or be the first to send a flirtatious message. Tonight: Play!

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

**** With so much energy today, you might be bouncing off the walls where you live. You're enthusiastic and full of determination! However, something unexpected might disrupt your home routine. Romance, flirtations and entertaining diversions will be par for the course. Tonight: Domestic plans.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** Today you have tremendous intellectual energy because Mercury is lined up with Mars in your House of Communications. Lighten up if you see the hair blowing back over someone's ears. On the upside you'll have no trouble persuading someone about anything. Tonight: Excited discussions.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** You will defend yourself vigorously today if you're in a debate about something you own or anything to do with money, your earnings or cash flow. Be proactive in guarding what you own against loss, theft or damage. Tonight: Moneymaking ideas.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

***** This is a powerful day for you! You might feel restless and impulsive. You will also be proactive, confident and "take charge" about whatever you're doing. (Of this, others will have no doubt.) Perhaps you should lighten up a bit? Meanwhile, romance is sizzling and passionate! Tonight: You're intense!

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

**** This is a restless day for you because your ruler Uranus is dancing with the Sun, which, in turn, is hidden in your chart. This means you might feel a bit excited. You also might discover something new about yourself. You'll be frank and revealing in discussions with others. ("I'm not Frank. He is.") Tonight: Secrets.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

***** Interactions with others will be bold and energetic today. You have something to say! Your excitement might be due to a romantic attraction you feel for someone. If this is the case, you will demonstrate your affection! You won't be afraid to make the first move because a casual contact could morph into something romantic. Tonight: Be friendly.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

The right road to follow

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 8 3
♥ A 10 6
♦ Q 10
♣ Q J 7 5 2

WEST
♠ K 4
♥ Q 7
♦ 9 8 7 6 3
♣ K 10 8 6

EAST
♠ Q 7 6 5 2
♥ J 9 5 4 3
♦ A 4 2
♣ --

SOUTH
♠ A J 9
♥ K 8 2
♦ K J 5
♣ A 9 4 3

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead -- nine of diamonds.

It is axiomatic to say that making the contract is declarer's first consideration, but applying this principle on every deal is more easily said than done.

Consider this case where East won the opening diamond lead with the ace and returned a diamond, won by dummy's queen. Declarer then led the queen of clubs, and when East showed out, South could no longer make the contract.

West took the queen with the king and played a third round of diamonds to establish his suit, and South could do no better than take eight tricks to finish down one.

It is easy to dismiss the outcome by saying that declarer was extremely unlucky that the clubs were divided 4-0 -- the only distribution that could defeat him. Nevertheless, the fact remains that South's failure to make the contract was a violation -- albeit unintentional -- of the principle stated above.

Declarer's goal from the start should be to make sure he scores four club tricks. If he does that, he is home free and clear. Since there is no problem if the opposing clubs are divided 2-2 or 3-1, South should shape his play to cater to the possibility of either opponent having all four clubs.

Accordingly, he should win the diamond return with the king at trick two and lead a low club toward dummy at trick three. In the actual case, West cannot score more than one club trick, whether he takes the king immediately or later.

The same is true if East is the player with four clubs. He also cannot stop declarer from scoring four club tricks no matter how he defends. The safety play thus guarantees the contract regardless of how the opposing clubs are divided.

Tomorrow: The sure road to victory.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5303

7	4	2	1	6	5	8	3	9
1	3	6	8	2	9	4	5	7
9	8	5	4	3	7	1	2	6
6	5	7	3	1	2	9	8	4
4	2	8	7	9	6	5	1	3
3	9	1	5	4	8	6	7	2
5	6	4	2	8	3	7	9	1
8	1	3	9	7	4	2	6	5
2	7	9	6	5	1	3	4	8

Tricky — B5303

5	6	7	8	3	9	1	4	2
3	2	1	7	4	6	9	5	8
9	8	4	5	2	1	3	6	7
1	5	8	2	7	3	4	9	6
4	7	9	6	1	8	5	2	3
2	3	6	9	5	4	8	7	1
6	4	5	3	8	7	2	1	9
8	9	2	1	6	5	7	3	4
7	1	3	4	9	2	6	8	5